

ADDENDUM

Since the submission of the above description, we have received information relative to the obtaining of a further specimen of *Alethe fuelleborni xuthura* in coastal forest to the north of the type-locality by Mr. M. O. E. Baddeley, formerly taxidermist at the Durban Museum and now a freelance collector of specimens. The skin of the second Moçambique *A. fuelleborni* is in the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. We are grateful to Major Melvin A. Traylor for confirming the identification.

A third specimen was taken by Mr. Baddeley in montane forest at 3,700 feet a.s.l. on Mt. Gorongosa, in Manica e Sofala, Moçambique, on 22nd October, 1968. This specimen, a ♀ in juv. – prebasic dress, is now in the collection of the Durban Museum. It agrees with the *Type* in the ventral and tail characters attributed to *xuthura*.

The generic name for the Dovekie or Little Auk

by Alexander Wetmore and George E. Watson

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Two variant spellings proposed simultaneously for the generic name of the Dovekie or Little Auk are in current use. American authors follow Ridgway (1919: 706), Peters (1934: 350), and the A.O.U. Check-list (1957: 248) in using *Plautus* Gunnerus (1761: 263), while most Old World authors follow Hartert (1921: 1768), Hellmayr and Conover (1948: 345), and Vaurie (1965: 504) in using *Plotus* Gunnerus (1761: 263).

From examination of Gunnerus' publication both in the original Danish and in English translation, we consider that neither name is valid.

Gunnerus' name was overlooked until Richmond (1917: 615) brought it to attention, and as first reviser selected *Plautus* over *Plotus*, probably because Gunnerus labelled his plate 6 *Plautus columbanus* (corrected to *columbarius* in the errata in vol. 2), and because Moehring (1752: 65), the earlier reference cited by Gunnerus, gave *Plautus*. For the Latin purist, the classical, south Italian *Plautus* (flat-foot) may be preferred over later and Vulgar north Italian *Plotus*. *Plotus* may be derived also from the Greek adjective πλωτός (swimming).

Gunnerus was not consistently binomial in his 1761 paper, even in the sentence in which he cited the names *Plotus* eller *Plautus Columbarius*. The translation of the paragraph in question reads as follows: "If Teisten [the Black Guillemot] is to be called *Plotus columbarius* (Due-Dykkert [Dove-Diver]), then it is to be called *Plotus Columbarius major, extremo apice rostri incurvato*; to distinguish it from the little Peder Drikker [Dovekie] that I note one calls *Plotus* or *Plautus Columbarius*."

We, therefore, advocate return to *Alle* Link (1807: 46), a generic name which, unlike *Plotus* and *Plautus*, has not been used for any bird other than the Dovekie. *Plotus* Linnaeus (1766: 218) is a junior synonym of *Anbinga* Brisson (1760: 60). Our action in rejecting *Plautus* Gunnerus 1761, however, eliminates this as a senior homonym of *Plautus* Brünnich (1772: 78), which therefore becomes the senior synonym of *Pinguinus* Bonaterre (1791: lxxxiii, 28) the current generic name of the Great Auk. Reichenbach (1849-53: V) cited *Plautus* Klein for the Gull "*Larus glaucus* L. Gm." which is *Larus hyperboreus* Gunnerus (1767: 226 [note]).

Plautus Klein in the 1760 (p. 154) German translation of his pre-Linnaean Latin treatise likewise is to be rejected for lack of consistent use of binomials.

We are grateful to Mesdames Lilly Calder and Harriet Jørgensen for translating Gunnerus' work for us, and to Curtis W. Sabrosky, Jr., for nomenclatural advice.

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Further breeding records from Zambia (No. 7)

by R. K. Brooke

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The last paper in this series is Brooke (1967). Since then a number of breeding records have been received from Mr. William Condry the author of *Birds and Wild Africa* (1967, Collins, London). I now draw attention to the most interesting ones and include Mr. Condry's field notes thereon. I am most grateful to him for making his data available. Mr. C. W. Benson has kindly criticised the draft of this paper.

Turdus pelios Bonaparte

Tropical Olive Thrush

At Ndundu near Mbala (formerly Abercorn) a nest was found on 14th January, 1964, containing two young. This date makes it the nest found latest in the season in Zambia. The nest was placed some 25 feet up in a fork near the top of a small tree near the drive to the house. The nest was very like that of the European Blackbird *T. merula* L. A hide was built and the parents showed no adverse reaction to it. The male sang freely nearby until 6th February, the young having flown on 31st January. He seldom helped to feed the young but once fed the female a spider. The female was seen to feed the young on earthworms, some ants and termites and an occasional spider. One youngster disappeared on 19th January. A marked similarity to the European Blackbird was noted in general habits and the alarm call despite the absence of sexual dimorphism in this species. The sexes were identified by behaviour.

Lagonosticta caerulea Vieillot

Grey Waxbill

At Ndundu a pair were first noted building a nest four and a half feet up in